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Date: DEC 10 1964

U.S. Aid In Establishing Castro As Communist Tyrant Described In Book Review

"Fidel Castro is a communist! Does that really shake you? No? Why? Obviously, because you already knew it but since when have you known?"

"Since he was permitted to come to this country and be paraded, lauded, wined and dined while all the time figuratively spitting in our faces? Did you know it then? Our state department knew it. Men in the CIA knew it."

So stated Mrs. Homer Waltz in a book review of "The Fourth Floor" by Earl E. T. Smith, who was United States Ambassador to Cuba from 1957 until 1959 when Castro's July 26th take-over was executed.

Mrs. Waltz Tuesday night told the Randolph County ACA (Americans for Conservative Action) that Smith writes from a deep concern and a certain knowledge and has proven by the very presence of this book that his concern did not end when he left Cuba.

"The title of the book is taken from the name given the lower echelon of the state department dealing with Latin American affairs. These secondary officials determine our policies in that part of the world," she said.

Smith had two missions to accomplish in Cuba: to establish the Embassy's position of impartiality in the political affairs of Cuba; and to persuade Batista to restore constitutional guarantees and to lift press censorship," Mrs. Waltz related.

"After an intensive study of the background of Fidel Castro, there was no doubt that no matter how bad Batista was, Castro would be worse. In short, Castro was an unstable terrorist and bad for Cuba."

"Before Batista fell, Smith had been instructed to promise delivery of 20 armored cars and 15 training planes to help stem the Castroites. We did not live up to this promise. Smith states in all fairness to the state department they should not be wholly blamed. Severe pressure

was brought to bear on the state department by members of Congress, the press, representatives of the revolutionaries in the U. S. and American public reaction," Mrs. Waltz continued.

"On June 22, Raul Castro issued military order number 30 calling for the kidnapping of American citizens in the area under his control. This order was written in the Communist pattern justified the act on the grounds that his forces were receiving intensive bombardment by government planes allegedly being refueled out of the Naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

"Five days elapsed between the time of the issuance of the order and when the first American was kidnapped. If American intelligence sources had been aware of Military order number 30 during that 5 day period, the Embassy would have immediately taken action to warn and evacuate all Americans in this area under Castro's control," Mrs. Waltz quoted Smith as saying.

Many of their succeeding performances — such as highjacking planes, were done for publicity.

"After Batista fled, the mob took over, then the bearded Castro arrived to take over the mob and the rest is history at its worst.

"No matter what coloration is put on it, the fact remains that international communism has established a base 90 miles from our shores, from which it is organizing against the United States throughout Latin America.

"It does not matter at all that we have allies close to the Russian border, what does matter is that the Russians had not established a base in the Western hemisphere until Castro appeared in Cuba. Then those most tragic words by Smith: 'From my experience in Cuba, I have concluded that this need not have happened,' the speaker stated.

"What is really our policy?"

Who make it? How is it established? Why did we intervene in Castro's favor in Cuba when we might have supported able, knowledgeable pro-American men?" she asked.

"In a speech December 2, 1961 Castro said: 'There is no halfway between Socialism and imperialism.' Surely it is difficult to understand why the higher echelon of the state department as late as April 1961 permitted release of the White Paper on Cuba," the speaker suggested.

"The United States cannot afford to risk its security by having the Fourth Floor gamble on a Leftist dictator in order to have revolutions succeed... it is the function of the state department and the CIA to know in advance the nature of each group.

"It is a fact that we have a communist country 90 miles off our shores. There is a possibility that the Caribbean might become a communist lake. It is our duty and obligation to prevent such a possibility," she concluded.

George Daly, chapter chairman, conducted a short business meeting and stated that the local chapter was again for the second year awarded a plaque at the state convention last week based on originality for the Mardi Gras booth and the conservative book shelf at the Winchester library.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, in the courthouse.